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AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

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SOLDIER ON

Shovels turn for veterans housing

Renovations underway for 51 apartments at former police academy

By Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

After years of preparation and delays, Soldier On will finally open next year.

The \$24 million project will connect 51 at-risk military veterans with single-person permanent apartments in the renovated former Western Massachusetts Regional Police Academy at 702 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills. Though work is well underway to renovate the long-vacant structure, Soldier On held a ceremonial groundbreaking Monday.

"They served their country," said Jerry Sargent of Citizens Bank, which is helping to finance the project. "They are some of the best among us, and they're going to be among us in Agawam."

It will be Soldier On's fourth permanent housing project in Western Massachusetts. The original Gordon H. Mansfield Veterans Community opened in 2010 in Pittsfield. Two more have opened in the past two months, in Chicopee and in the Leeds section of Northampton, near the Veterans Administration hospital. Those three facilities have 39,

43 and 44 units, respectively.

The Pittsfield and Leeds structures were new construction; the Chicopee building, like Agawam's, is a renovation project, the former Chapin School.

All four veterans communities are named for Gordon Mansfield, a Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient from Pittsfield who went on to serve as deputy secretary of Veterans Affairs in the George W. Bush administration. Mansfield died in 2013. His wife serves on Soldier On's board

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Breaking ground at Soldier On this week were, from left, Jerry Sargent of Citizens Bank, Bruce Buckley from Soldier On, Agawam City Councilor George Bitzas, Bruce Sorota of Stratford Capital Group, Mayor Richard Cohen, City Councilor Robert Rossi, state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga and state Sen. Donald Humason. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION

What's

Agawam Day visitors tell what they love about the fair

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

The Big E turned 100 this year, but it never seems to get old for Agawam residents, especially when their town is honored with its own special day.

Alan Iserman has enjoyed the sights and sounds of the fair for more than 40 years. "I started coming when I was 10 and growing up in Westfield," he said.

Now living in Agawam with his wife Robyn and their family, he said the Big E's "Salute to Agawam" — which has been held since 1989 — is the best day to go. The Isermans were among nearly 85,000 people who came on Sept. 28 to join in the celebration of the

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Michael Sibilia, an Agawam native and West Springfield firefighter-paramedic assigned to Station 4, at the Big E with his wife Audrey and their children Isabella, Michael, and Franco outside the station's Firehouse Restaurant. They met him there for Salute to Agawam day. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

New, 'cool' voice represents students on district board

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

Joseph Joyal believes it's "a fantastic" opportunity to serve on the School Committee and be the "voice" for student concerns.

That's why he pursued becoming student representative on the school board for 2016-17. The

AHS senior wasn't a shoo-in for the one-year position — he had to compete against another student — but succeeded in winning the position last spring.

Joyal took his seat on the School Committee at its first meeting in September.

"I hope to accurately represent the views and opinions of my

peers, as well as work with the administration and the School Committee to make sure our schools are headed in the right direction," he said.

Although he's a non-voting representative, Joyal said it's still important to have students represented at committee meetings.

"Students are directly affected

by the decisions the School Committee makes, so it's important to have an open and honest dialogue with them. This dialogue is effective because the school allows me to say whatever students believe is important, with no guidelines."

Joyal, who has served as vice

JOYAL | page 8

OFFICERS SUSPENDED

Mayor mum on police force incident

By Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

Three Agawam police officers are on paid leave while the mayor investigates whether they used unwarranted force in a June incident at Police Headquarters.

According to Police Chief Eric Gillis, an independent consultant reviewed video and audio recordings of the June 19 incident last week. Reports by APD Management of Tewksbury, Mass., and from Gillis, were subsequently submitted to Agawam Mayor Richard Cohen.

Gillis said he had placed the officers on paid leave as soon as he reviewed the video, in keeping with department policies. He said because the investigation is ongoing, he cannot identify the officers, details of the incident or what recommendation he or the consultant have made to the mayor.

Cohen declined an opportunity to elaborate on the details of the incident this week.

"The chief of police has referred the matter to the mayor's office pursuant to the civil service statute," Cohen said in a written statement. "Due process has been and will continue to be followed as required."

According to Gillis, copies of the video and audio recordings

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Above: Veterans and several Agawam High School class officers raised the American flag in a ceremony Oct. 3 just hours before the first games were played on the new athletic fields complex at AHS. A veteran honor guard, and the school's color guard and school band, also participated in the ceremony.

Right: Veterans, students, school staff and town officials gather under the flagpole near the scoreboard of the newly renovated Harmon Smith Field at Agawam High School on Oct. 3. The 12 by 18 foot flag will be lit so it can fly at night.

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



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20 PAGES

Correction

A detail about former Agawam Police Detective Edward Borgatti was incorrect on page 11 of last week's Agawam Advertiser News. Borgatti retired in 1980 and did not work on the 1992 Lisa Ziegert homicide case.

Garden Club to meet on Tuesday in town

The Agawam Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11, at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. The meeting will include a flower arranging demonstration by Bob Whitney of Springfield Florist. Members and non-members are welcome.

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GOP hosts hometown College Republican leader next week

The Agawam Republican Town Committee will meet Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. This month's meeting will feature guest speaker Kassy Dillon of Agawam.

Dillon is a junior at Mount Holyoke College and is the Mount Holyoke College Republican president, the Massachusetts Young Americans for Liberty state chairman and founder of LoneConservative.com. She has been interviewed on Fox Business News and the One America News Channel. Dillon will share her thoughts on bringing more young people into the Republican Party.

The meeting is open to the public and the committee encourages anyone interested to attend. The Senior Center is at 954 Main St., Agawam. For further information, contact Robert Magovern at NEIGHBOR12@aol.com.

Early voting to include night, weekend hours

The town clerk's office has announced that early voting will begin Oct. 24 and continue through Nov. 4, including evening and weekend polling hours.

Prior to the enactment of this new law, the only way a registered voter was allowed to vote prior to Election Day was through absentee voting. Although absentee voting will still be available for registered voters who qualify, only those who will be absent from their city or town on Election Day, or have a disability or religious belief that prevents them from going to the polls, are legally allowed to vote by absentee ballot.

Unlike absentee voting, early voting is for every registered voter. Registered voters do not need an excuse or reason to vote early. All voters — absentee, early or Election Day — must be registered; residents may check their voter status and polling place at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele. Those who need to register may do so online at www.RegisterToVoteMA.com. To be eligible to participate in the Nov. 8 election, a voter must be registered by Oct. 19. Once a voter has cast an early voter ballot, the voter may no longer vote at the polls on Election Day.

Early voting can be done in person or by mail. In Agawam, early voting can be done in person at Town Hall, 36 Main St., Agawam, during normal business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., from Oct. 24 through Nov. 4; and during the following dates and times at other sites:

- Tuesday, Oct. 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam.
- Thursday, Oct. 27, 3-7 p.m. at the Senior Center.
- Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam.
- Tuesday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the library.
- Thursday, Nov. 3, 3-7 p.m. at the library.

Also, registered voters have the option to request an early voting ballot through the mail. Applications can be found at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele; they should be mailed to Town Clerk, 36 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001.

Three choices for change in sheriff race

Insiders, outsider face off on ballots countywide in Nov. to take over from Ashe

By Wyatt Aloisio
waloisio@turley.com

The three candidates for Hampden County sheriff, a Democrat, a Republican and an independent, bring widely varied backgrounds and beliefs on such issues as the sheriff's role in addressing opioid addiction, and inmate care and rehabilitation.

Nick Cocchi, D-Ludlow, John Comerford, R-Palmer, and James Gill, an independent from Wilbraham, will face off on Nov. 8 ballots throughout Hampden County. The winner of the election will succeed long-time Sheriff Michael Ashe Jr., a Democrat, who is retiring after 42 years.

John Comerford

Comerford says that the issue of the opioid epidemic should be left to the real experts and that the Sheriff's Department should focus more thoroughly on what it does best, enforcing the law.

"It is critical that we place more law enforcement on the streets of Hampden County," said Comerford.

He said he hopes to have qualified experts to be brought in at an advisory capacity to help deal with the opioid epidemic while he and the department focus on the creation of a trained patrol unit from the department who will work in partnership with local police.

"The sheriff's department and their officers are law enforcement officials," said Comerford. "And yet I've always wondered why you never see them out patrolling the streets. I think that it's time that the department be brought back into the fold of law enforcement and we work to change that."

Comerford likened having an additional police presence to seeing a police vehicle at the side of the road and instinctually knowing to slow down and stated that having more law enforcement would, "go a long way in stemming the tide of criminal activity in the region."

Proclaiming himself to be the "outsider" in the race, Comerford said that he would only serve a single term, if elected, and thinks the sheriff's office could use the perspective of someone not working within the prison system. Comerford, who lives in the Bondsville section of Palmer, has worked for many years as the former chief of investigations for the state Bureau

of Special Investigations in Springfield, focusing primarily on welfare fraud, and also served as an investigator for the state Office of the Attorney General.

A Vietnam War veteran, he has also spent time working as a safety officers for a private company handling security at Westfield State Hospital, and for the past seven years has served as the veteran services agent for East Longmeadow, Monson, Wales and Hampden.

James Gill

Gill says that the opioid epidemic is a part of a much greater problem for the region, which is the lack of rehabilitation for criminals who enter into the prison system.

The Wilbraham resident touts 25 years of experience within the prison system and also currently serves as an assistant deputy superintendent for the department. He has served the department in vocational education

and administration, domestic violence programs, religious services — Gill is a founder and senior pastor with the Harvest Fellowship Church Inc. in Springfield — as a commander of the hostage negotiation team, and community volunteer services, to name a few.

Gill says that his goal is to bring a "common sense" approach to running the department. He said the department must work one-on-one with prisoners to make an impact on the hearts and minds of the inmates in the system.

"These younger offenders that we deal with now have no fear of coming to prison, nor do they have any respect for anyone," said Gill. "With my background, I know and understand how they think, and believe that I can get through to them."

Gill promises to address the morale, duties and safety of staff and officers, open a 126-bed short-term detention unit, no early release for repeat offenders, cut down the number of programs within the system to a select few which are proven to work, and revise the current inmate classification system.

He also plans regular reports presented to the public documenting the effectiveness of programs and spending, to foster a greater degree of involvement from citizens on how the department is being run as well

as rehabilitation of prisoners, including in select cases having families of offenders taking part in helping to get offenders on a better track.

"This campaign is not about the campaign of one party or another," said Gill. "It is a campaign that will reflect the will of the voters. It is about people's lives and not party lines."

Nick Cocchi

Calls and emails to Cocchi's campaign were not returned in time for this story.

Cocchi, the current deputy superintendent for the Sheriff's Department and winner of a three-way Democratic primary

election last month, brings more than 23 years of experience as a correctional officer to the race. He currently works as a director of operations for the correctional center, overseeing, among many things, security at the facility for inmate housing, and wellness and

staff development.

Cocchi has said throughout his campaign that part of his goals include continuing many of the existing policies and practices that the current sheriff began, with his primary goal being offender and inmate rehabilitation to return them to society as productive citizens and community members.

At the annual Sheriff's Clambake fundraiser early last month, Cocchi said, "our job is to take offenders, who come to us at the lowest times in their lives, in cuffs and shackles, and while they're in our custody, release them back into the community more likely to be productive and less likely to be harmful."

Including supporting the idea of a regional lock-up facility in Ludlow for temporary detainees and better youth offender programs, Cocchi has also sought to help decrease the ongoing opioid epidemic through plans for increased insurance coverage for addiction treatment to 30 days, providing more addiction counselor training programs, and creating a dedicated task force whose mission is to focus not only on enforcement and treatment but also on educating the public.

The candidates for sheriff will appear on the same ballot as presidential candidates, Nov. 8.



John Comerford



James Gill



Nick Cocchi

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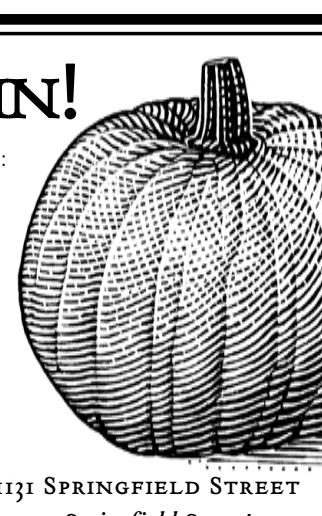
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Opinion

OUR VIEW

Sketch gives new life to Ziegert case

Being able to see a picture of Lisa Ziegert's suspected killer is a triumph of science. If the computer sketch leads to an arrest and conviction, it will be a triumph of justice.

Who would have thought back in 1992 — two years before the United States even established a national criminal DNA database — that 24 years later, evidence that may have been as small as a hair or a drop of blood could be sent to a laboratory and come back as a computerized sketch?

The other question in this case is more sobering: Who would have thought, back in 1992, that Lisa Ziegert's murder would remain unsolved even longer than she was alive?

Police made it clear last week that they weren't reopening a closed case. That's because the Ziegert case never has been closed. The Agawam Police, State Police and the Hampden County district attorney's office — through three successive DAs — has continued to treat this as an active investigation. But they're hopeful that they can close the case soon — with an arrest.

They need your help. Show the image on this page, and on the district attorney's website at hampdenda.com, to your friends, family and (former) neighbors who may have lived in Agawam in the early 1990s. It's only an approximation of what the suspect may have looked like, as DNA can't tell us the age of the murderer, his weight, the presence of facial hair, tattoos or scars, or his hairstyle. Maybe, however, looking at this face will bring up memories of someone who looked a little like that and once made a suspicious comment or acted oddly just before or after Ziegert's death. Any lead is helpful to police. If you know or suspect anything, call the Agawam Police at 413-786-4768, the DA's tip line at 413-333-9148 or Text-a-Tip, anonymously, to 274637 with a message beginning with the word "SOLVE."

Amazing advances in forensic science have given this case a new life and new urgency. The computers and laboratories can only take us so far, however. They were able to put a face to the crime; putting a name to the face, however, remains a task for the rest of us.

What do you think? Email your letter to the editor to aan@turley.com.



Police released this composite image last week, based on genetic information in DNA recovered at the Lisa Ziegert murder scene in 1992, of what her assailant may have looked like. FILE PHOTO

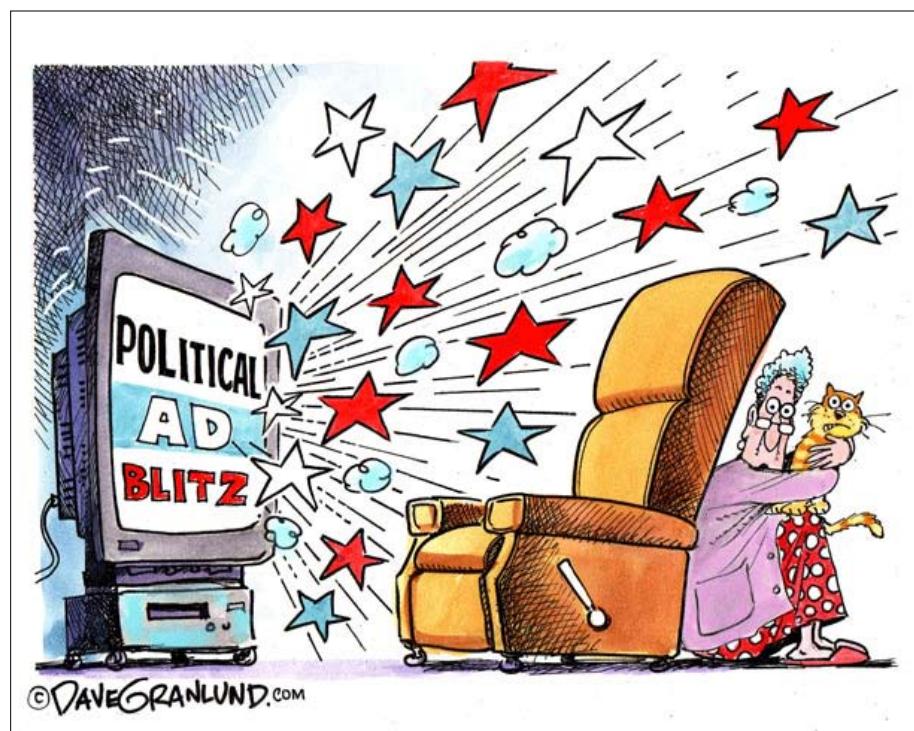
Election letters to the editor welcome

The Agawam Advertiser News welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the November ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications, 380 Union St., W. Springfield, MA 01089, faxed to 413-786-8457 or emailed to aan@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last week before the election (edition of Nov. 3). For more information, call Michael J. Ballway or Teri Machia at 413-786-7747.

Candidate profiles

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about the local sheriff, state senate and state representative races, and questionnaire responses from the candidates, during the months of September and October. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact John Baskin, 413-786-7747 or jbaskin@turley.com, about paid advertising in the Agawam Advertiser News.



YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

The '61s' 55th reunion, part 1

On Saturday morning, Sept. 24, I stopped to see Gary Janulewicz '61 at his home. My goal was to get a list of those '61s I would be seeing at their 55th reunion later in the day. Gary had a list for me and I took it home



Paul Arnold



Patricia A. Ramah

to read it. Your own reunions can be fun, especially if you can see some classmates from distant places, but reunions of someone else's class are a lot more difficult. You should really look through the class yearbook. Some people still look a lot like they did years ago.

Gary's list had a real surprise — Linda (Burgess) Pajak. I had just seen her on Wednesday and never knew she was a '61. I didn't even know she went to Agawam High. Brownies are everywhere, I guess. Linda is a friend from way back. Her late husband George Pajak founded the Agawam Soccer Association a long time ago. He was nominated last year for the AHS Soccer Hall of Fame, which is a work in progress.

Nina and I got to Oak Ridge Country Club early. Guests of the '61s, we hoped to meet some alumni and get some updates from those we already knew. The first chat was with Red Martin, husband of Mary (Haffler '61). Red and Mary have an AHS record which may never be broken. Their three sons were all on a Western Massachusetts championship team when AHS beat Ludlow 2-0 in soccer in 1986. That was a night Nina, our son Kevin and I will never forget. After the game we celebrated at Red Rose with some parents. As we left on Main Street in Springfield, we were hit by a drunk driver, sending all three of us to the hospital, luckily with just minor cuts and bruises. Red remembered the game, especially hearing Ludlow fans speculating pre-game about how much they would beat us by. Didn't happen. The Martin boys and their teammates won 2-0.

We didn't want to tie up seats at a table of good friends, so we waited to be seated last. In the far corner we sat down with Dave and Barbara (Ciak '61) Bolster of West Springfield. Easy to find some common ground here since our daughter Michelle lives in the same neighborhood with lots

of Ciak descendants. Barbara told us that her daughter Heidi has a coffee shop in Feeding Hills and lives near our daughter, plus her grandson and our grandson are good friends. Of all the couples in the room, how unlikely that we would sit together. Soon we were joined by Walter Haynes. Two Walters in the room and we end up at the same table.

Walter Haynes grew up at 1238 Main St. That's on the other side of the street where Trinity Terrace is located. David Robinson, who was the class president of the '64s, lived on the south corner of Trinity in a home his family sold to Darcy Davis. Not far away were the Statkun, Reikler, Hebert, Wippert, Mortenson and Gensheimer children. Walter's brother Michael '63 is a podiatrist here in town and will probably be at the upcoming '63 gathering on Oct. 8.

A real highlight of the reunion was getting to meet Greg Buell, who was one of the original Monty and the Specialties. Greg talked about recording the Velveteens' hit, "Please Holy Father," as their backup band. Greg explained that one problem the song had was that Brad Davis, a Hartford DJ, wouldn't play it because he thought it was too religious. Another problem may have been that New York DJs weren't being given a little incentive. Joining us in the conversation was Judy (Schinelli '61) Serra who sang with the Velveteen girls earlier when they were the Teensters. Judy's dad Lino Schinelli, an All-Western Mass. football player, was nominated by me to our Hall of Fame. He didn't get selected this time, but will have a good shot next year. Lino, known as John, was a Little League coach way back when it was founded by Jim Reynolds Jr. and a few other dads. (to be continued) P.S. A happy birthday Oct. 1 to Roger Leclerc!

Walt Willard went to AHS and taught math there for 16 years. He can be reached at 413-786-7924. Call him. Walt loves your feedback and any and all information or tidbits you can offer.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Monday at Noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 380 Union Street, Suite 52; West Springfield, MA 01089 or e-mail aan@turley.com.

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FAITH MATTERS

A little faith goes a long way

A former teacher of mine used to say that people sometimes need a pat on the shoulder for encouragement, and sometimes they need a kick in the pants for motivation. Jesus offers us both.

As I read the gospels, mostly I find encouragement. Jesus reminds us that God loves us and forgives us and helps us along the way. And thank God for it.

Then Jesus gives us a little motivation in the form of lessons about how we should live, things like, "If the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times a day and says, 'I repent,' you must forgive" (Luke 17:4).

That kind of forgiveness is not easy. Apparently the apostles also found it a little daunting, because they immediately respond, "Increase our faith! We cannot do it. Help us!"

Jesus is surprisingly unsympathetic. He tells them if they had faith the size of a mustard seed, they could say to a tree, "Be uprooted," and it would obey.

I do not think Jesus was interested in moving trees, impressive though that would be. His point is that a little faith goes a long way. With even a little faith, we can do great things. Surely that ought to include forgiving each other.

That is also his answer to their prayer about increasing their faith. God has given us the gifts that we need. Now it is our turn



Rev. Harvey Hill

to put those gifts to work. So we should start forgiving each other. We should start working together to do God's will. We should at least try "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8). If we do, God will help, and we will get better at it, and our faith will grow.

Tuesday of this week (Oct. 4) was the anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis was a man of great faith. But even he had to start somewhere. One of my favorite stories comes from the beginning of his ministry. At that time, Francis feared leprosy and had a horror of lepers. But that was who God called

Francis to serve, so, despite his fear, Francis approached the next leper he encountered. Francis embraced him, cleansed his wounds, and served him. And in that experience, Francis discovered new depths of faith and love.

Francis needed a little kick in the pants in order for him to learn more about God's love and to deepen his faith. Sometimes we all need a little motivational help. But if we listen for God's call to us, if we use the gifts that God gives us, if we do the work God invites us to do, then we, too, will grow in faith and love. And that is encouragement!

The Rev. Harvey Hill is the pastor at St. David's Episcopal Church on Springfield Street in Feeding Hills.

School Committee meeting

**Robert G. Doering School,
68 Main St.
Tuesday, Oct. 11 — 7 p.m.**

1. Call to order
2. Moment of silence
3. Roll call of attendance
4. Regular meeting — 7 p.m.
5. Citizen's Speak Time
6. Highlights on Education:
a. AJHS Washington, DC trip presentation
7. Superintendent's Notes
8. Student Advisory Committee representative update
9. Unfinished business:
a. SCR-16-25, MASC voting/alternate delegates
b. SCR-16-26, MASC Resolutions
10. Business meeting
a. Routine matters
- 1) Approval of minutes
- 2) Calendar/Correspondence
- b. Warrants/Transfers
- c. Reports:
1). Scheduled reports:
* Student/Teacher Enrollment (paper report)
* HS Course Elimination (paper report)
* Title I Update — Dr. LeClair
- 2) Subcommittee updates
11. New business:
a. SCR-16-27, Approval of AJHS Trip to Washington, DC from April 17 to April 21, 2017
12. Any other items that may legally come before the committee
13. Adjournment

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Thu., Oct. 13, 2016

2 PM: Alaska

3 PM: Napa

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21 EDWARDS ST.
SPRINGFIELD, MA

5 PM: Napa and Alaska

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Obituary

John Farrington



The family of John Farrington, a Marine Corps veteran of World War II, invites all who wish to attend his military committal service with honors at the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Agawam. Meet at the chapel on the cemetery grounds on Main Street; this 15-minute service begins promptly at 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13.



Arrangements are under the direction of Agawam Funeral Home.

Tech High '44s hold final reunion luncheon

WEST SPRINGFIELD — According to Theodore Carellas, chairman of the 72nd Springfield Technical High School Class of January 1944 Reunion Committee, close to 30 of the 156 members of this class were located and invited to attend and its 72nd class reunion luncheon held Sept. 2 at the Monte Carlo Restaurant in West Springfield. Thirteen members of the class attended, as well as guests, bringing the total to 27 attendees.

This was the last "mid-year class reunion" for this class at Springfield Technical High School, which was on Elliot Street where the new federal courthouse now stands. A portion of the original building remains on Elliot Street.

All surviving members of this class are now approximately 90 years old and are spread throughout the country. Carellas also noted 15 or more of the classmates have passed away in just the last three years.

The reunion committee consisted of Ted Carellas, Westfield; Fred Dimauro, Agawam; Joyce (Marcoulier) Platt, Russell; Russell Perkins, Easthampton; Harley Stone, Ludlow; and Walter Worthington, Wilbraham.



Springfield Technical High School Class of January 1944 class members, back row, from left, are Leo Norkin, James Bellamy, Harley Stone, Harold Okun, Vera Sullivan Donlin and Olga Magnani Sexton. Front row, from left: Walter Worthington, Frances Silvestri, Alfred Dimauro, Irving Chase, Nick Hassiotis, Joyce Marcolier Platt and Ted Carellas. SUBMITTED PHOTO

DEATH NOTICES

Baker, Raymond J.

Died Sept. 30
Funeral Oct. 4
Agawam Curran-Jones
Funeral Home

Farrington, John

Military committal service
Oct. 13
Mass. Veterans' Memorial
Cemetery
Agawam
Agawam Funeral Home Inc.

Gelineau, Ellen Marie

Died Sept. 25
Funeral Oct 1
Forastiere-Smith Funeral
Home
East Longmeadow

Kennedy, Dorothy A.

Died Sept. 22
Private services
Colonial Forastiere Funeral
Home of Agawam

Schmidt, George W.

Died Oct. 1
Funeral Oct. 7
Colonial Forastiere Funeral
Home
Agawam

Taupier, James E.

Died Oct. 1
Funeral Oct. 7
Agawam Funeral Home Inc.

Young, Geoffrey R.

Memorial service Oct. 12
Agawam Congregational
Church

Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

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Senate candidates debate taxes, marijuana on TV this weekend

By Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD — The two candidates for state senator from Agawam had a civil conversation in front of WGBY television cameras despite sharp disagreements on taxes, charter schools and marijuana.

The half-hour debate between incumbent state Sen. Donald Humason Jr., R-Westfield, and challenger J.D. Parker-O'Grady, D-Southampton, will air at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, with an encore showing at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 9.

Perhaps their sharpest disagreement was on the state ballot question, to be decided by voters in November, on whether to fully legalize marijuana in Massachusetts.

Parker-O'Grady said legalization would allow the state to regulate sales, ensuring the safety of the product and that it is not sold to minors. It would also bring tax revenue, he said.

Humason disagreed.

"We have a drug problem in the commonwealth," the longtime legislator said. "I think it sends an especially bad message to children."

He added that in Colorado, where recreational marijuana has been legalized, the composition and packaging of edible products with marijuana in them, such as candies and drinks, is reminiscent of the cigarette industry's "Joe Camel" marketing that was banned for encouraging underage smoking. He said the state Legislature sent a fact-finding mission to Colorado, and even the legislators who had been in favor of legalizing marijuana "came back with grave concerns."



Incumbent state Sen. Donald Humason, left, shares the stage at the WGBY-TV debate with his November opponent, J.D. Parker-O'Grady, right, and moderator James Madigan. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

Parker-O'Grady said contrary to the fear that marijuana is a "gateway drug," a study has shown that states with legal marijuana actually have lower rates of opioid overdose.

The debate, moderated by James Madigan, was taped Friday, Sept. 30, in Springfield. It will be presented as a "The State We're In" segment on WGBY's local newsmagazine program, "Connecting Point." The full debate can also be viewed at www.wgby.org/connectingpoint anytime after Tuesday, Oct. 11.

Parker-O'Grady backed a proposal to introduce a graduated income tax in Massachusetts, with higher rates for higher earners, as is the case with the federal income tax. He said several brackets would be fair-

er because individuals with lower incomes spend more of their money, proportionally, on necessities.

"Somebody making more money has more of a cushion" to afford a higher tax rate, Parker-O'Grady said.

Humason said he supports the current flat tax, with a single rate for all income.

"I think it's a problem when you try to go after the people who are creating the jobs," he said.

Humason and Parker-O'Grady also disagreed on the ballot question to allow more charter schools. Humason said he believes

"every parent and every child should have the right to go to the best school possible." Parker-O'Grady said "we should focus more on funding our public schools," and he would oppose additional charter schools.

Asked about opioid addiction, Parker-O'Grady said the state needs to put more money into treatment programs rather than focusing on ending the supply or prosecuting drug users. He said he agrees with recent prescription drug legislation as "a good first step," but noted that there will always be a demand for drugs, unless users can access medical treatment to end their addiction.

Humason said he, too, has supported treating opioid addiction as a public health crisis, and the state's current legislative and executive leadership — unlike previous administrations — has begun doing so. The state is "on the right track" in funding treatment, Humason said.

The district stretches from Tolland to Chicopee, covering 11 cities and towns, including all of Agawam.

"The 2nd Hampden State Senate District always sees a very spirited campaign," commented Madigan, the host of "Connecting Point" and WGBY's director of public affairs. "It's a seat Democrats would love to take back after years of Republican domination there. Expect a lively exchange."

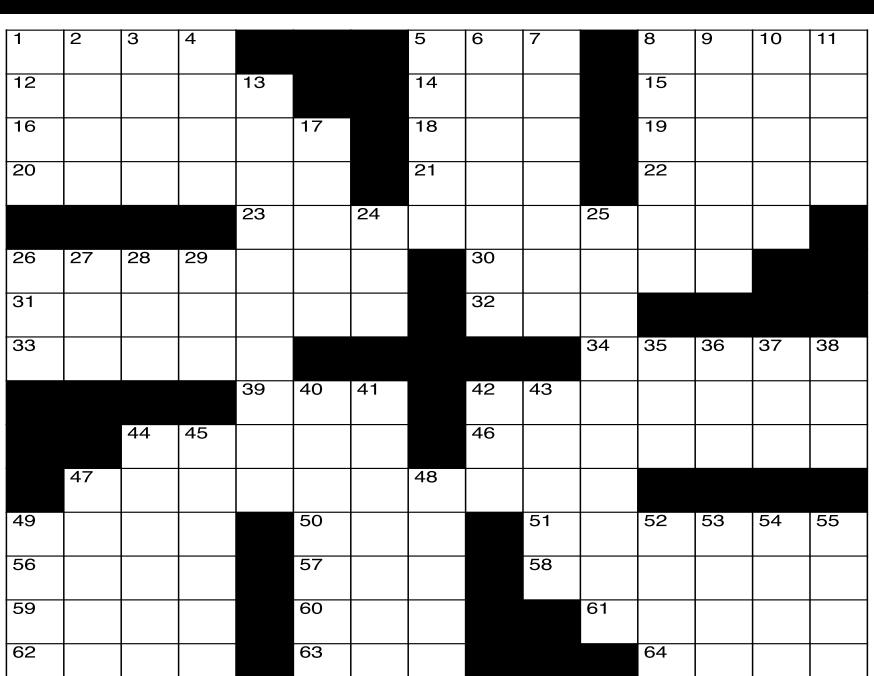
WGBY is Western Massachusetts' public television station and can be found on Channel 57, on Comcast Cable channels 2 and 857, and online at www.wgby.org.

Catholic Women to host Living Rosary next week

The Catholic Women's Club will present the Living Rosary at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11. It will be held at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. Any members that wish to participate are asked to arrive between 5:30 and 5:45 p.m. This

event is open to all who wish to attend.

A meeting of the Catholic Women's Club will follow the Rosary in the parish center. The meeting is open to members and their guests only. Refreshments will be served.



CLUES ACROSS

- Nui, Easter Island
- Midway between south and southeast
- Small mark
- Small antelope
- Protects from weather
- Goddess of women and marriage
- City in Washington
- Independent voters association
- Bird genus
- Train line
- Annoy
- Waste matter
- 41st President
- Type of cracker
- Remove
- Looked quickly
- Habitat of wild animals
- Type of gene

CLUES DOWN

- Island north of Guam
- Biblical region
- Scottish ancestor
- Hills in northeast India
- A way to cook by baking
- Attacked ferociously
- Furniture with open shelves
- Burt Reynolds film
- A way to examine
- Plant of the goosefoot family
- Job
- Capable of being thought
- One seeded fruit
- Colors clothes
- Midway between east and southeast
- Japanese beverage
- Net
- Liquefied natural gas (abbr.)
- Platitudes
- Very fast airplane
- Pet detective
- Resinous substance
- Explosive
- Purse
- Swiss river
- Separately managed account (abbr.)
- Electron scanning microscope (abbr.)
- Fable
- Mythical monsters
- Whale (Norwegian)
- Domed recesses
- Member of U.S. Navy
- Cause to be loved
- Expression of surprise
- Jessica __, actress
- Drove
- Commands to go faster
- Chinese dynasty
- Military vehicle
- Chinese Muslim



From left, Pam Peebles, Scott Renius, David Ratner, and Tonya Plumb, Foundation for TJO Animals president of the board of directors. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dave's golf tournament raises \$12K for TJO animal shelter

LUDLOW — Dave's Soda and Pet City's second annual Putting for Paws golf tournament, held at the Ludlow Country Club in July, raised \$12,422 to support the Thomas J. O'Connor animal shelter's mission in helping and caring for local animals in-need.

This year's event brought members of Dave's team together with pet food vendors, distributors, business partners and members of the community at-large for a day of fun on the course for a great cause.

"What a wonderful community of vendors we have at Dave's who know the importance of supporting such a great organization as T.J. O'Connor," said David Ratner, owner of Agawam-based Dave's Soda and Pet City.

The event's success was made possible through golfer participation and the generosity of event sponsors Natural Balance

(Top Dog), Blue Buffalo (Best of Breed), WellPet, Purina, Dowd Insurance Agencies, Champion Pet Foods, Goldsmith, Katz and Argenio PC Attorneys at Law, Weruva, Central Pet Distribution, Fish Mart Inc., Greenies, Nature's Variety, Nutro, Pestell Pet Products, Pet Food Experts, and Phillips Pet Food and Supplies.

"The Foundation for TJO Animals provides critical medical care, supplies and training to the animals in shelter because of generous people like Dave, his customers, employees and vendors," said Scott Renius, Foundation for TJO Animals executive director. "The Putting for Paws golf outing has become an important part of our annual funding and we sincerely want to thank everyone for helping the animals become adoptable and an important part of a family."

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Public Safety

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 290 calls for service from Sept. 26 to Oct.

2. The department recorded no arrests in its public log.

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 89 EMS calls from Sept. 20 to Sept. 26, and the following emergency response calls.

On Sept. 20 at 2:56 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 West for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Sept. 21 at 10:58 a.m., the department responded to Charles Street to assist invalid.

On Sept. 21 at 5:01 p.m., the department responded to Danny Lane for CO detector activation due to malfunction.

On Sept. 21 at 7:07 p.m., the department responded to Raymond Circle to assist invalid.

On Sept. 22 at 10:42 a.m., the department responded to N. Westfield Street for lockout.

On Sept. 22 at 4:02 p.m., the department responded to N. Westfield Street for animal rescue.

On Sept. 22 at 4:23, the department responded to Cooper Street for electrical wiring/equipment problem, other.

On Sept. 22 at 10:45 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for false alarm or false call, other.

On Sept. 23 at 8:38 a.m., the department responded to N. Westfield Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Sept. 23 at 9:21 a.m., the department responded to Leonard Street for public service assistance, other.

On Sept. 23 at 11:06 a.m., the department responded to Valentine Street for gas leak (natural gas or LPG).

On Sept. 23 at 12:02 p.m., the department responded to Meadow Street for unintentional transmission of alarm, other.

On Sept. 23 at 1:50 p.m., the department responded to Grant Street for passenger vehicle fire.

On Sept. 23 at 2 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

Suffield Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Sept. 24 at 10:44 a.m., the department responded to River Road for public service.

On Sept. 24 at 1:03 p.m., the department responded to Raymond Circle for public service.

On Sept. 24 at 2:59 p.m., the department responded to Meadowbrook Manor for alarm system activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Sept. 24 at 3:20 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Sept. 24 at 3:52 p.m., the department responded to Main Street, was dispatched and canceled en route.

On Sept. 24 at 5:23 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Sept. 25 at 12:30 a.m., the department responded to Lealand Avenue for arcing, shorted electrical equipment.

On Sept. 25 at 7:47 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for direct tie to FD, malicious false alarm.

On Sept. 25 at 7:54 a.m., the department responded to Memorial Drive for public service.

On Sept. 25 at 7:59 a.m., the department responded to Bowles Road for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On Sept. 25 at 11:50 a.m., the department responded to Route 57 West for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Sept. 25 at 12:44 p.m., the department responded to Castle Hills Road for public service.

On Sept. 25 at 10:13 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for CO detector activation due to malfunction.

On Sept. 25 at 11:14 p.m., the department responded to Raymond Circle for person in distress, other.

On Sept. 26 at 6:49 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for false alarm or false call, other.

On Sept. 26 at 3:37 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 for motor vehicle accident with injuries.



A swearing-in was held Oct. 4 at Agawam Town Hall for call firefighters Christopher Reagan and Michael Fields. Pictured are Mayor Richard Cohen, Reagan, Fields and Fire Chief Alan Sirois. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Seven up



A swearing-in took place for seven police officers at Agawam Town Hall, Friday, Sept. 30. From left are Lt. Edward McGovern, Lt. Jennifer Blanchette, Police Chief Eric Gillis, Mayor Richard Cohen, and officers Richard Birk, Dalton Bogisch, David Pashek, Jeffrey Hichborn, Timothy Dobek, Eric Luccardi and Zachary Bussiere. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Library's juried art show is next month; early bird entries due Oct. 15

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library will hold its Open Juried Art Show Nov. 1-25. There are 27 awards with cash prizes totaling \$1,250. The awards are made up of best in show, first-, second- and third-prize in each category, 10 honorable mentions, and an artists' choice award.

An artist reception and awards ceremony is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m., with music and light refreshments. It is free and open to the public.

The art show is to benefit the Agawam Public Library and to help recognize and encourage artists. Last year's show saw 84 works accepted from 97 entries, with 76 artists displayed from Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Multiple entries per category of original art are allowed. The fee is \$25 per entry for early-bird registration by Saturday, Oct. 15. The fee rises to \$30 per entry after Oct. 15. Artwork may be dropped off at the library starting Oct. 15, Mondays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m., is the deadline to enter and to drop off artwork. Jurying and judging will begin that same day at 1:30 p.m. and is closed to the public.

The selection and awards jurors are Steve Wilda and Sandra Wakeen. The five categories are acrylics, oils, watercolors, pastels and other media (pencil drawing, charcoal, pen and inks, block prints, collage, encaustics).

The prospectus-entry form and a type-on entry form can be downloaded from www.agawamlibrary.org/about/friends. Winning artwork from previous shows can be accessed from the same website.

The artwork juried into the show will be on display in the gallery area of the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Nov. 1-25. For further information, email Bob Kadis at r.kadis@comcast.net or to receive a prospectus-entry form in the mail, call him at 413-789-4814.

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library is a nonprofit, 501c3 tax-exempt organization whose mission is to support the town library by providing fundraisers, workshops and educational activities, and volunteer services. For further information, write to Friends of the Agawam Public Library, care of Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam, MA 01001. The Friends group is not connected to any local, state, or federal government agency.

Firehouse museum open Oct. 15

The Agawam Historical and Firehouse Museum at 35 Elm St., Agawam, will be open Saturday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will feature a special exhibit celebrating

the 100th anniversary of the Eastern States Exhibition. For more information, visit www.agawamhistoricalassoc.webs.com or follow the museum on Facebook.

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Agawam West Springfield WRC

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A frenzied conclusion to the 2015-2016 Beacon Hill legislative session produced far-reaching measures on pay equity, energy and economic development, but no agreement on restricting the use of non-compete agreements.

Come hear AIM's Executive Vice President for Government Affairs, John Regan discuss the matters that passed, those that didn't, and what may be in store for the next Legislative Session that begins in January of 2017.

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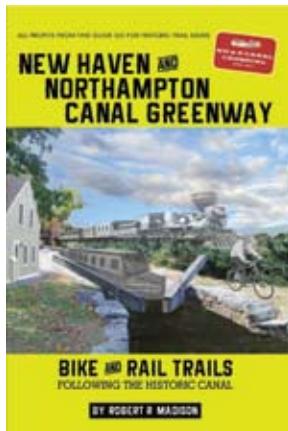
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Local author writes book on former canal

Robert R. Madison of Agawam recently completed a new book, "New Haven and Northampton Canal Greenway: Bike and Rail Trails Following the Historic Canal," which describes the modern rail trail route between those two cities, with history of both the "Farmington Canal" and the Canal Railroad that supplanted it. Detailed information about the rail trails through all 16 towns — which include nearby Southwick and Westfield — as well as other attractions nearby, is also included, along with many illustrations.

Madison will sign books and have copies of the book available for purchase, \$29.95 (plus tax) for hardcover and \$19.95 for paperback, at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9, at the Southwick History Museum, 86-88 College Highway, Southwick. Royalties from book sales and future lectures will be used for the purchase of signs highlighting the New Haven and Northampton Canal Greenway, which will be placed in each of the 16 towns. As the signs become available, their placement will be decided by each town.



Copies of "New Haven and Northampton Canal Greenway: Bike and Rail Trails Following the Historic Canal" will be available for purchase at Sunday in Southwick.



Author Bob Madison, center, holds his book on the Farmington Canal. At left, Southwick Historical Society officer Barbara Gunn holds one of Madison's watercolors, showing four of the eight locks below North Pond. At right is Historical Society member Patricia Odiorne. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

GOP leader praises Humason for voting record

BOSTON — Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr, R-Gloucester, recently congratulated state Sen. Donald Humason Jr., R-Westfield, for achieving a perfect voting record in the 2015-16 formal session. Since first being sworn in to the Senate on Nov. 20, 2013, Humason — who represents Agawam and 11 other communities in the state Senate — has not missed a single roll call vote.

"The 2nd Hampden and Hampshire District is one of the farthest Senate districts from Beacon Hill. When I consider that distance and the many commitments I maintain for my family, friends and constituents in the district, I am very proud of my record. Representing my constituents' thoughts and opinions in the Senate at each opportunity is one of the most important obliga-

tions they have entrusted me with, and I take that very seriously," said Humason. "I appreciate Minority Leader Tarr's recognition of my accomplishment."

Throughout the two-year session, the Senate totaled over 650 roll call votes on a wide array of legislative matters. Humason is the senate minority whip and currently serves on nine legislative committees, including the Senate and joint committees on ways and means.

Formal legislative sessions concluded on July 31, while informal sessions will continue to be held regularly through the end of the year to continue the business of the Legislature. The Senate will resume full formal sessions in January, which is when the next biennial legislative session will begin.

POLICE

from page 1

have also been turned over to Hampden County District Attorney Anthony Gulluni.

"I stand committed to protecting the rights of all citizens, and have undertaken all actions to date in support of that commitment," Gillis said in a statement last week. "As chief of police, I have been steadfast in my resolve to maintain the public's trust, and will continue to investigate alle-

gations of a like nature as swiftly and expeditiously as possible. I am very grateful for the support of Mayor Richard Cohen, who stands beside me in this commitment to justice and service of all."

In his statement, he said he would provide additional details on the incident once the mayor has "fully adjudicated" the officers.

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Joseph Joyal is the new student representative on the Agawam School Committee. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

JOYAL from page 1

president for the Class of 2017 since his freshman year, said he's well prepared to be the student representative, since his parents and other relatives are educators. His father, Charles, is vice principal at Doering School, and his mother, Kristin, is a pre-K special needs teacher at Woodland School in Southwick.

"I've always been involved with things in the school system, such as helping with science overnights in Southwick as a child, tutoring at the Doering School, and helping organize events as a class officer," he said.

Joyal added that his family of educators are very proud of his new position and now has the opportunity "to see and experience what they work with daily."

His father called the School Committee role a "great experience" for his son.

"As an administrator, I think it's great to have a student participate in the legislative process," he said. "It's important for students to feel like they have a voice on issues that directly affect them."

As parents, he and his wife know their son takes his role very seriously.

"Before attending his first meeting we regularly saw him watching C-SPAN and City Council meetings to learn how the legislative process worked," added his father.

Charles Joyal said he hopes Joe learns that there are multiple sides to every issue and that it's important to listen and keep an open mind before forming any opinions or sharing any thoughts.

Serving on the school board also gives Joyal the opportunity to put into practice what he learned about politics, economics, and law when he attended Massachusetts Boys State, an American Legion program that allows teenagers to simulate state and local government, last year. He further honed his skills as a member of the Hampden County District Attorney's Youth Advisory Board, giving presentations to schools and parents about substance abuse and internet safety.

At AHS, Joyal also has been active in sports as a member of the wrestling, track, cross country, and volleyball teams. "All my civic and sports activities have taught me

leadership, public speaking, team building, and critical thinking skills — all of which can be utilized on the School Committee."

AHS Principal Steve Lemanski said Joyal has "his pulse on student interests," adding that he's "a strong advocate" for AHS students. "Joe has been active student school government since his first year as a member of the Student Advisory Council," said Lemanski, who meets regularly with the group to discuss student issues.

A 'cool' role

What Joyal looks forward to most is being able to represent students and issues that are important to them. He said his classmates have been very supportive and encouraging about his new role. "They think it's a very cool thing that students are being heard."

To keep students informed, Joyal conveys information through video news segments viewed throughout the school that he helps produce in the school's broadcast journalism class. He also plans to reach out to students through social media as well as regular conversations in school.

Joyal called the School Committee "very professional," saying they have students' best interest in mind with everything they do. During his nine months on the committee, he wants to learn more about the complex system that keeps Agawam schools running.

"I hope I can both learn from the committee as well as help to make positive changes myself," he said.

Although the meetings so far have been what he expected after watching previous ones on the local cable access channel, he's even more impressed now that he's actually participating in the meetings.

"What's impressed me the most has been the committee's honesty in sharing their opinions," he said.

Joyal, who admits he has "a healthy obsession with politics" on the national and local level, said seeking public office is "definitely" a possibility for him in the future.

"It may be a ways away and I still have lots to learn and experience," he added.

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Youth

Tiny Tales plays return to Red Door

A new season of Tiny Tales Theatre, audience participatory plays for ages 3 to 9, opens with "The Jungle Book" Saturday, Oct. 8, at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. In the play, jungle creatures befriend Mowgli, a young village boy who wanders away from his mother and is lost. There's Baloo the bear, who becomes his teacher, and Bagheera, the panther who joins with the wolf pack to protect him.

Audience members also meet Mother Wolf, who takes in the "man-cub" as one of her own. The excitement builds when Khan the tiger, Kaa the snake and Bandar-log the monkey all try to capture the young

boy for their own pleasure or dinner.

Hundreds have attended these popular plays throughout the 25 years that the award-winning community theater has been offering live performances. Participants can put on a costume piece and join the veteran actors on stage or help the characters from their seats in the audience. Admission is \$6.

For more information, visit reddoortheatre.com. For reservations, call 413-789-2026 and leave your name, number and time you wish to attend. You will receive a call back to confirm the reservation.

Kids invited to annual haunted house

Heritage Woods Senior Living will host its third annual Haunted House on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. at 462 Main Street, Agawam. Children are welcome

to wear their costumes and take a walk through the haunted house. For more information, call 413-786-9704 or email nicole.wallace@genesisihcc.com.

School Lunch

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Oct. 10: Columbus Day. No school.
Tuesday, Oct. 11: Chicken patty on a roll, Tater Tots, carrot sticks with ranch, fresh and chilled fruit.
Wednesday, Oct. 12: Chicken filet wrap served with lettuce with assorted sauce, tomato and cheese, side of pasta salad, fresh and chilled fruit.
Thursday, Oct. 13: Fresh assorted calzones, garden salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit.
Friday, Oct. 14: Ham and cheese on a bagel, low-fat potato chips, cucumber salad, assorted fresh fruit.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL

AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
Monday, Oct. 10: Columbus Day. No school.
Tuesday, Oct. 11: French toast sticks, hash browns, turkey sausage, assorted fresh fruit, strawberry cup.
Wednesday, Oct. 12: Loaded nachos (ground beef, lettuce, tomato, salsa, cheese), baked beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Oct. 13: Junior High and Doering - Baked chicken patty sandwich, low-fat chips, carrots and ranch, fresh and chilled fruit. Elementary - Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Oct. 14: Junior High and Doering - Ultra-grains stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie. Elementary - Baked chicken patty sandwich, low-fat chips, carrots and ranch, fresh and chilled fruit.

ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST MENU

Monday, Oct. 10: No school. Columbus Day.
Tuesday, Oct. 11: Assorted low-sugar cereal, assorted nutrigrain bars, mozzarella cheese, assorted muffins, juice or milk.
Wednesday, Oct. 12: Assorted low-sugar cereal, assorted nutrigrain bars, mozzarella cheese, assorted muffins, juice or milk.
Thursday, Oct. 13: Assorted low-sugar cereal, assorted nutrigrain bars, mozzarella cheese, assorted muffins, juice or milk.
Friday, Oct. 14: Assorted pancakes with syrup, string cheese, fresh fruit, juice or milk.

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Scout opens 'little library'



The opening of the Little Free Library took place Saturday, Oct. 1 under the pavilion at School Street Park in Agawam. Eden Berry, a Girl Scout from Agawam, pictured in her uniform vest at center, initiated the promotion of this program and was instrumental in its opening. Mayor Richard Cohen and Agawam Public Library Director Judy Clini took part in the celebration, as well as friends and family members. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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EXPO ■ from page 1

fair's neighboring community.

"We only come one day during the entire fair — and it's always this day," said Robyn. "We spend the entire day here trying out new food items and looking for new vendors."

"We hang out with friends until after the Mardi Gras parade. Then we gather up our kids and head home," added Alan.

Peter and Irina Panchelyuga come to the Big E to shop. "Our kids walk in the parade, but we get here early and spend time shopping," said Peter, who added that he usually takes the day off from work.

Irina was "excited" about their 15th year visiting the fair.

"This is our freedom day, our shopping day," she said shortly after their arrival. "We both enjoy the fair — we take our time and see as many things as possible."

Visiting the Big E on Agawam's special day has been a tradition for Michelle and Bryan Connery for the past eight years.

"It's our only day. It's our 'date day,'" said Michelle. "We do whatever we want during the day. It's a slow pace for us — until we pick up our kids. It's much faster and all about what they want to do then."

Two of the Connerys' fair favorites: going through the Better Living Center and the state buildings — where Bryan gets his favorite food. "I really like the Vermont Building's apple crisp with ice cream," he said.

Michelle — who calls herself the "practical one" — is happy just walking around and enjoying the fair. "To me, the Big E signifies the end of summer and the start of fall."

She added that the day Agawam is honored feels different than any other day. "It has a more personal and community feel to it. There are so many Agawam people here — it's almost like our own town fair."

Morgan Robinson is a Texas native who moved to Agawam — the hometown of her husband Justin — two years ago. That's when she fell in love with the Big E. They arrive when the fair opens and stay until it closes.

"I really enjoy The Big E. It's much smaller the Texas State Fair, but the food is better — much better than any other fair I've been at," said Morgan.



Morgan Robinson is a Texas native who fell in love with the Big E when she moved to Agawam — the hometown of her husband Justin — two years ago. They are standing in front of one of their favorite fair places, the Massachusetts Building.



These youngsters from Agawam's youth field hockey were delighted to be part of the parade for The Big E "Salute to Agawam." TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

From visiting the state buildings — Massachusetts is their favorite — to hitting the hundreds of craft and vendor booths to going down the giant yellow slide to eating fair food, they planned to pack a lot in during their annual visit.

"I like coming during the week," said Justin, a 2005 AHS graduate. "It's not as crowded as the weekends — plus it's nice to enjoy the fair when my hometown is honored."

Volunteers' views

Michael Sibilia is one of many Agawam residents who experience the fair much differently than ticket-holders.

A West Springfield firefighter-paramedic for the past 17 years, he's usually assigned to Station 4 during the Big E. The station is located on the exposition grounds and operates 24 hours a day during the fair.

He and other West Side firefighters also cook breakfast and lunch for fairgoers at the station's Firehouse Restaurant to raise money for the West Springfield Firefighters

Relief Association.

His family — wife Audrey, children Isabella, Michael, and Franco — often visit him at the station. "When they come see me it's like a big family reunion," said the 1991 AHS graduate.

Across from the fire station is the first-aid station where Ron Case, who retired from the military earlier this year, spent time transporting injured fairgoers for first aid in a golf cart. He also brought them back to the fair if they needed to go to the hospital for further treatment.

"We get a lot of people who get heat stroke, fall, or get stung by a bee," he said.

Case's eight-hour shifts at the first aid station gave him a much different perspective of the Big E. "There are quite a few people who need our services. Fairgoers who are treated here are very grateful — some have even come back to thank us," he said.

Chris Dupelle and Elaine Carlson are costumed "villagers" who help educate visitors to the Big E's "peaceful" area — the

Storowton Village Museum.

"Storowton is a group of historic 18th and 19th century New England buildings that were reconstructed between 1927 and 1931 around a traditional town green," said Carlson, who has been village "interpreter" for seven years.

"The village is a little gem — it's much different from the rest of the fair," said Dupelle, who has volunteered for five years. "I enjoy meeting the people and telling them about the village's history."

She added that all interpreters, new and veteran, must attend training sessions each year before the fair opens to learn what's new and what's changed from the previous year.

Carlson called it a "wonderful" learning experience.

"I've met visitors from as far away as Australia and discovered many things about the history of the village and the Big E that I never knew," Carlson said. "It's fun because I like learning new things."



Michelle and Bryan Connery only visit the Big E once each year. It's their "date day" and a chance to eat some favorite fair foods — like the apple crisp with ice cream they're eating at the Vermont Building.



AHS Class of 2017 President Johnny Kelly (right) and Vice President Joe Joyal, led off the daily parade honoring their town by carrying a special banner.



This antique Agawam fire truck isn't as old as the Big E, but it proved to be just as popular with the crowds watching the daily parade honoring Agawam.



Chris Dupelle (left) and Elaine Carlson are costumed "villagers" who help educate visitors to the Big E's "peaceful" area — the Storowton Village Museum.



Trumpeters in the Marching Mohawks march and play as the AHS band passes fairgoers lined up to watch the Big E's daily parade.



Robyn and Alan Iserman shop for some Christmas ornaments in the Crafts Common area. Their tradition is to come to the fair once – on "Salute to Agawam" day.



The Rosie Robotics team from the high school represented the robotic teams at all Agawam schools in the Big E's daily parade.

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Ron Case, who is retired from the military, spent his time at the Big E as a volunteer at the first-aid station. He drove a golf cart that transported fairgoers who needed treatment for minor injuries.



Irina and Peter Panchelyuga have been coming to the Big E for 15 years. "This is our freedom day, our shopping day," said Irina.



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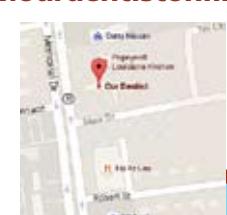
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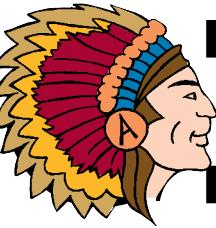
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SPORTS



QUICK STRIKES

Morassi, Brownies rush past Knights

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – When Agawam scores, it scores in bunches and usually leads to a big win.

Last Friday night, the Brownies played through the rain and after a slow start, they scored four touchdowns in seven minutes and took care of Holyoke in their first week back in the AA Conference with a 35-0 shutout.

The game was held at Holyoke's Roberts Sports Complex, which recently got brand new turf after 16 years of use from the old turf.

Agawam's new artificial turf stadium was supposed to open, but delays in the completion of the project led the game to be moved to Holyoke.

The Brownies made themselves at home in Holyoke, as after trading defensive power with the Knights, broke through with a short run by Ryan White with 10:58 remaining in the second quarter.



Ryan White takes the snap for Agawam. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

FOOTBALL | page 13

CROSS COUNTRY

Orioles split meet with Brownies

By Dave Forbes
Turley Publications Sports Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – The Agawam cross country teams had a pair of meets with Belchertown and the Brownies were able to come out on top in one of them.

Agawam secured a win in a very close meet, 27-30. Belchertown picked up its win on the girls side with a 19-44 victory.

Jason and Dennis Beaver finished in the top two spots for Agawam as they each crossed

the finished line at 18 minutes, 00 seconds. Colin Czerpak added a third-place finish at 18:06. Josh Conway placed 10th at 19:08.

On the girls side, Erin had the best time for Agawam as she placed second overall with a time of 20:51.

Miranda Kamukata placed ninth with a time of 24:20.

Dave Forbes is a sports editor for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com or by calling 413-283-8393 ext. 237.

Agawam captures summer league title



DEERFIELD – The Agawam girls varsity volleyball team won the summer league championship. Pictured are: top row (from left to right) Caroline Hitchcock, Sofia Kirik, Abby Veins, Liz Milliken, and Garret Hollander (coach). Bottom row: Paige Hardy, Gabby Harrison, Bianca Culhane and Paige Hollander. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS SUBMITTED PHOTO

CARON SCORES FOR BROWNIES

Agawam falls on road to Belchertown

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown High School girls soccer team had a big first half and used a strong defensive effort in the second half to keep the game away from visiting Agawam in a 4-1 win last Tuesday afternoon.

In all, fourth different players managed to get scores past Erin Berthiaume, who allowed all the goals in the first half.

Belchertown got goals from Kayla Henry, Lyndsay Fleming, Lauren LeBlanc, and Libby White. Henry also had an assist as the Orioles got up early in the game.

Agawam was able to counter back down 3-0 with a goal by Sarah Carron, who managed an unassisted tally against goalie Samantha Birks. The Orioles would strike back to keep it a three-goal deficit.

Late in the first half, Agawam would make a number of good attempts on goal, finding different ways to beat the Orioles to the ball.

But Belchertown would keep things completely out of reach in the second, winning more 50/50 balls and having an aggressive approach on offense.

The Brownies would use second goalie Caitlyn Normoyle in the final half. She was challenged on a number of occasions, but pitched the shutout to keep the deficit at three goals. But Agawam's offense, despite some good chances being taken late, were not able to move anything else by Birks.



Goalie Erin Berthiaume punts the ball away. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Mia Kelley tries to block a pass.

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Sports

FOOTBALL ■ from page 12

Not wanting to take a chance because of slippery conditions in a soaking rain, the Brownies opted to go for two with White connecting on the far right with Joe Oliver for a two-point conversion. Oliver caught the ball with just enough time to keep his feet inbounds.

After forcing a turnover quickly, the Brownies got another touchdown quickly when White made a handoff to Chris Morassi, who found a hole and ran 69 yards to the end zone. Another two-point attempt failed and it was 14-0 Agawam.

The Brownies didn't quit with the pressure.

Next Agawam would get the ball back by an interception, and Morassi then ran the ball 30 yards for another score.

Less than two minutes and another turnover after that, it was Jared Durocher who scored, taking the ball for a 56-yard run.

That was the final score for the half and Agawam combined the game 28-0.

Agawam did not need very long to grab another score as Morassi made a 68-yard run early in the third quarter. Following an Aiden Page kick, the Brownies were up by five touchdowns.

The Agawam defense, both first and second team players, were the stars of the game the rest of the way, with the Brownies not allowing any points the remainder of the game. Outside of the 12-minute period between Agawam's first and last scores, Holyoke's defense also performed well.

But it was Holyoke's offensive struggles that made the difference for the Knights. Kendrick Williams only ran for 53 yards.

Agawam was led on the ground by 239



Ryan White attempts a pass for the Brownies.

yards by Morassi. Durocher finished with 105 yards and Anthony Adams ran for 65 yards. Agawam is scheduled to host Minnechaug on Oct. 7 and Athletics Director David Stratton said this week the home field is scheduled to be ready for play. The Brownies are 3-1.

Holyoke dropped to 1-3 for the season and is scheduled to face Central at home at 7 p.m.



Jared Durocher takes a hand off in the backfield. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCI-BELLI



Anthony Adams is taken down on a run.

The week ahead

Thursday, Oct. 6

Boys Soccer

Pope Francis at Agawam

Friday, Oct. 7

Football

Minnechaug at Agawam

Boys Soccer

Holyoke at Agawam

Girls Soccer

Agawam at Ludlow

Field Hockey

Amherst at Agawam

Girls Volleyball

Agawam at Chicopee

Saturday, Oct. 8

No games scheduled

Sunday, Oct. 9

No games scheduled

Monday, Oct. 10

Boys Soccer

Agawam at Northampton

Tournament to raise awareness for drug addiction

AGAWAM – On Oct. 8, Agawam Municipal Golf Course will host, Shane's Tournament, aimed at helping create awareness for drug addiction in memory of a multi-sport athlete from Agawam High School.

Tracy Wilkie said her son Shane passed away in November 2014 from drug addiction.

Since then, she established Shane's Foundation, and spends time in the Agawam Public School raising awareness for drug and alcohol addiction.

The tournament will be held at the municipal course on Saturday, Oct. 8 with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start.

Golfer spots have sold out, but there are still open spaces for the dinner and ball-drops.

To get involved in the tournament, contact Wilkie at tjsbwilk@gmail.com.

Rackliffe earns third straight ECAC Division III NE Volleyball Player of the Week honors

FRAMINGHAM – Framingham State senior right side Alycia Rackliffe, of Feeding Hills, has been named Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III New England Player of the Week for the third straight week to start the 2016 season.

Rackliffe has been named as the MASCAC's volleyball player of the week in each of the first four weeks of the season as well.

Rackliffe averaged 16.5 kills, 5.5 digs, 2.5 blocks and 1.5 service aces with a .349 hitting percentage in a 3-1 week for the Rams. She compiled 29 kills, eight digs and five blocks with a .400 hitting percentage in a five set loss to Salve Regina. She closed the week with 16 kills, 12 digs and three blocks in a 3-0 MASCAC victory over Westfield State.

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Sports

SOCER ■ from page 12

The tough loss was followed by another tough loss against West Springfield, another top contender for Division I, 3-0.

Agawam dropped to 6-3-1 for the season, but are still in great shape concerning the postseason. With eight games remaining, Agawam needs just five more points, or two wins and a tie, to qualify.

The Brownies also sit atop the Kurty-



Jess Bonfiglio fights to move the ball past the Belchertown offense. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Sarah Carron looks down at the ball as she decides her next move.

Field League with a 2-1-1 record.

Belchertown continues to have a very interesting season, breaking a string of ties with their win over Agawam.

Prior to that, the Orioles had two scoreless ties with Ludlow and East Longmeadow, then had a 1-1 tie with Minnechaug.

Coming up, Belchertown is scheduled to face rival Granby on Oct. 7 at 4 p.m. Agawam is next set to face Ludlow on the road Oct. 7 at 4:30 p.m.



Agawam's Jared Drummond (8) settles the ball down with his right foot.



Agawam's Evan Corridan (2) takes a look up the field. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

Brownies split pair of games

AGAWAM – The Agawam boys soccer team had a pair of contests last week, securing a 7-1 win over Central and falling to Belchertown 4-1.



Agawam's Jonny Kelley (16) sends the ball up the field with a right-footed kick.

Legals

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 6:10 p.m.** at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Agawam DPW for the property located on North Street, Pleasant Valley Road, School Street and South Street.

By Order of **Henry A. Kozloski**, Chairman Agawam Conservation Commission

10/6/16

NOTICE NOTICE OF BALLOON FLIGHT CELLCO PARTNERSHIP d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS

Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless has filed an application for a special permit with the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals to erect a Personal Wireless Service Facility consisting of a 64 ft. wood pole and a 10' x 20' wood enclosure on property located at 1623 Main Street shown on Assessor's Map, K3, Block 3 Lot 1. Verizon Wireless will fly a balloon at the proposed site for public viewing on **October 7, 2016**

from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. In the event of inclement weather, the balloon flight will be held on October 8, 2016 at the same time. For any questions, contact Ellen W. Freyman, counsel to Verizon Wireless at 413-737-1131.

10/6/16

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Springfield Water and Sewer Commission for property located on Bondi's Island and the Connecticut River.

By Order of **Henry A. Kozloski**, Chairman Agawam Conservation Commission

10/6/16

LEGAL AD AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 6:40 PM**, at the Agawam Public

Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of McKiernan for work to be performed at Silver Lake subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of **Henry A. Kozloski**, Chairman Agawam Conservation Commission

10/6/16

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 6:20 p.m.** at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, Mass. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Six Flags New England for work to be performed at Looney Tunes Restrooms, 1623 Main Street, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of **Henry A. Kozloski**, Chairman Agawam Conservation Commission

10/6/16

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, October 13,**

2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Webber for the property located at 277 Silver Street.

By Order of **Henry A. Kozloski**, Chairman Agawam Conservation Commission

10/6/16

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD15P2087EA

Estate of:
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Also Known As:
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September 19, 2015
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To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Diane M. Pedulla** of Arlington VA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
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All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x235.

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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
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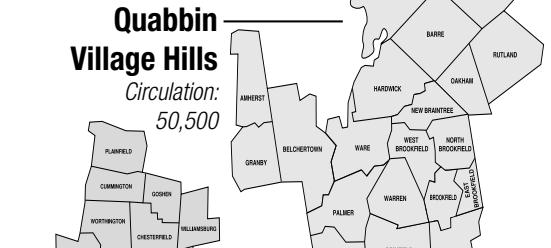
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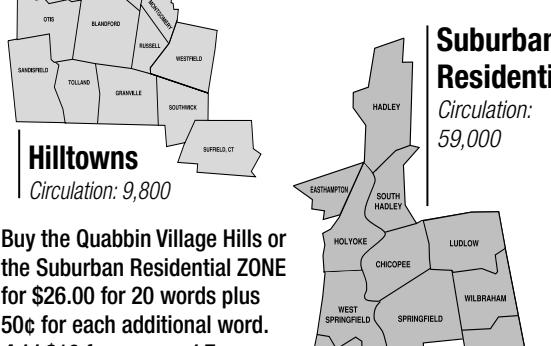
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Our Town

Agawam resident in leadership program

Brian Westerlind of Agawam is part of the Class of 2017 for Leadership Pioneer Valley, a 10-month leadership development program for private, nonprofit, educational and public organizations in Western Massachusetts.

Westerlind is with the Markens Group Inc. in Springfield.

This year's fifth anniversary class of Leadership Pioneer Valley includes 37 members. The region-specific curriculum is designed to help the participants refine their leadership skills, broaden connections, and develop a greater commitment to community trusteeship and inclusion within the Pioneer Valley.



Mary Ann Zicolella cuts Charlie Larson's hair for Wigs for Kids last Wednesday. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Resident, salon team up for 'Wigs for Kids'

Charlie Larson, of Agawam, who worked in the courtesy booth at the Big E's Gate 4, donated 13 inches of his hair to the Wigs for Kids organization.

Mary Ann Zicolella, of Salon Tres Chic, came to the fair Wednesday, Sept. 28, to give Larson a haircut during his break and help him donate his locks.

It took him two years to grow his hair and he hopes his donation brings some comfort to a little girl or boy in need.

Salon Tres Chic, on Walnut Street Extension in Agawam, offers a complimentary hair cut to those who donate 12 inches of hair or more to help a child in need.



Feeding Hills resident Bob Sands directs a rehearsal of "Mr. Mambo," which will be performed one night only Oct. 15 at the Academy of Music Theatre in Northampton. SUBMITTED PHOTO BY VIVIANA'S PHOTOGRAPHY

Sands directs musical based on songs of Tiffany

NORTHAMPTON — Feeding Hills resident Bob Sands is directing a preview of the new Broadway musical comedy "Mr. Mambo." This new stage production features the best-known pop songs of the 1980s recording artist Tiffany. Music direction for the show will be provided by Agawam High School graduate Michael Rheault.

"Mr. Mambo" is a family-friendly show and will highlight Tiffany's best music, including the songs "I Think We're Alone Now," "I Saw Her Standing There" and "Could've Been." This contemporary musical comedy tells a romantic story about three high school seniors who discover more about themselves and each other when they spend spring break in New York City on a reality television show.

Sands is an original member and presi-

dent of the Agawam Arts Council. He has been active in the Agawam Repertory Theatre, where he directed plays including "The Curious Savage" by John Patrick and "Don't Drink the Water" by Woody Allen.

He is also an experienced actor and lighting designer, and has directed both dramatic plays and musicals throughout New England. Sands has selected some of the best local talent for this showcase, which will be presented for one performance only at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Academy of Music Theatre in Northampton.

Tickets start at \$35 and are on sale now. Group rates for 10 or more are available. The Academy of Music Theatre is at 274 Main St. in Northampton. More information is available at www.mrmambo.net or at www.aomtheatre.com.

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The screenshot shows the Sports Turley Publications website. At the top, there are navigation links for Home, Sports Writers, Submissions, Photo Requests, Schedules, and Turley Publications. A search bar is also present. Below the navigation, there is a large "Submit your sports photos or sports news briefs!" button. To the right of the button, there are fields for Name, Email Address, Subject, Message, and Attachment, with a "Submit" button at the bottom. On the left side of the page, there is a sidebar with "This Week in Sports" sections for different days of the week, listing various local sports events. The main content area features a "Sports" section with a photo of a group of people and a "Bonus Sports Photo Slideshow" section. At the bottom, there is a footer with links to various schools and organizations.

SOLDIER ■ from page 1

of directors.

The existing Soldier On properties serve a wide range of ages, men in their 20s to 50s, said Bruce Buckley, the group's chief operating officer. All are United States veterans who became homeless or were in danger of becoming homeless. Not only are they provided a place to live, but each resident also owns a share in the building as part of a limited equity collaborative.

Buckley said the Pittsfield facility has very low turnover.

Many of the residents of Soldier On facilities come from the group's own transitional services, such as temporary housing and counseling, based in Pittsfield and Leeds, said Buckley. Other residents are referred by local veterans agents, or find out about the program through word of mouth from other veterans.

Buckley said the Feeding Hills site is the final piece in Soldier On's efforts to meet the need for veterans housing in Western Massachusetts. The group's next focus will be on expanding to other regions, with projects planned for Albany, N.Y.; Jackson, Miss.; Plymouth, N.H.; and Tinton Falls, N.J. The group already provides some transitional services in those areas.

Costs, delays

The state decided in 2010 to sell the former police academy. Mayor Richard Cohen credited then-state Rep. Rosemary Sandlin with ensuring that the property would be repurposed as veterans housing.

All but two of the housing units will be contained in the existing academy structure. Two apartments, in addition to common areas such as the kitchen and front entrance, will be located in a one-story, 56-by-56-foot annex connected to the back of the existing building by an enclosed walkway. The parking lot will also be in the rear of the building; the facade and lawn facing South Westfield Street will remain mostly unchanged. The annex will not be visible from the street.

In 2012, when it was originally proposed, the project was estimated to cost \$12 million. It faced several delays during the permitting and grant qualifying process, including a costly change in the plan for renovating the windows, to satisfy the requirements of a historical preservation grant. The interior also required more work than expected, as a roof collapse had let moisture into the building. Last year, Soldier On estimated the budget at \$14 million, to come from state and federal agencies. In April, the group announced it had received \$10 million in financing from Citizens Bank.



Though the official groundbreaking took place this week, work had already begun on the academy building.

"The cost of doing a project like this is great," Buckley noted on Monday. "The cost of not doing it would be greater."

He said homelessness among veterans takes a toll on police, hospital and prison resources. Providing veterans with homes allows them to seek jobs and pay taxes, meet their child support obligations and otherwise contribute to society.



When completed, the Soldier On facility will consist of a renovated police academy building and a one-story annex and parking behind.



Bruce Buckley, chief operating officer of Soldier On, speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony on Monday. Seated behind him, from left, are Steve Como, the group's vice president; state Sen. Donald Humason; and Agawam Mayor Richard Cohen. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

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